

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 have been amended for clarity only. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watatani (U.S. Patent No. 6,153,511) in view of Jeng (U.S. Patent No. 6,521,548). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1 and 11 each recite, in part, a method of fabricating a semiconductor device, which includes forming a first insulation film on a substrate by a spin-on process and forming a second insulation film on the first insulation film by a spin-on process. In contrast, Watatani discloses (Figures 5A-I, column 5, lines 60-67) that a SOG film is formed by a spin coating process and that a second SOG film 78 is also formed by a spin coating process. Watatani further discloses that an insulation film 76 formed by a plasma CVD process is formed between films 74 and 78. Therefore, Watatani does not teach or suggest forming a second insulation film on the first insulation film since Watatani teaches an intermediate film 76. Jeng, does not remedy the deficiencies of Watatani since Jeng discloses a method for forming a single spin-on layer. Accordingly, no combination of Watatani and Jeng teach or suggest a method of fabricating a semiconductor device, which includes forming a first insulation film on a substrate by a spin-on process and forming a second insulation film on the first insulation film by a spin-on process, as recited in claims 1 and 11.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7,-9, 12, 14, 15, and 17-19 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 11 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

B. Claims 3, 6, 13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watatani in view of Jeng and further in view of Sugahara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,756). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 3, 6, 13, and 16 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 11 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 10 and 20 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, in view of the foregoing, all the claims are believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 03-3975 under Order No. 40258/290685. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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